

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EUR-12 /105 W

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P 200721Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6672

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY DOHA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, BA

SUBJECT: ROK, BAHRAIN ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: MANAMA 393 (NOTAL)

1. ROK FONMIN ANNOUNCED APRIL 16 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND BAHRAIN. THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN A MEETING BETWEEN ROK AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA YU YANG-SU AND BAHRAIN FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIK MOHAMMED BEN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA. TERMS OF AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO MOFA, CALL FOR REPRESENTATION IN BAHRAIN AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS APRIL 14 MOFA MID EAST

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BUREAU DIRECTOR NO YONG-CHAN SAID ROK WILL ESTABLISH RESIDENT

EMBASSY IN BAHRAIN, LARGELY TO HANDLE OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH GOB CONCERNING 130 MILLION DOLLAR ROK SHIPBUILDING PROJECT IN BAHRAIN AS WELL AS PROJECTED CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS THERE. NO WAS CLEARLY PLEASED WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, VIEWING IT AS A SUBSTANTIAL BREAKTHROUGH FOR THE ROK IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

3. WITH THE REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT LAST WEEK BY NORTH KOREA OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, SOUTH KOREA NOW HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH 94 COUNTRIES AND NORTH KOREA HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH 88.

COMMENT: FROM ROK POINT OF VIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BAHRAIN IS DISTINCT TRIUMPH, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW FACT REPORTED REFTEL THAT NORTH WILL NOT BE RECOGNIZED. IT IS HOPEFUL SIGN THAT ROKG MAY BEGIN DOING BETTER JOB OF CONVERTING THEIR ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE OVER NORTH INTO DIPLOMATIC GAINS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL02900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760148-0888
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760443/aaaabkez.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANAMA 393
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK, BAHRAIN ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, BA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006